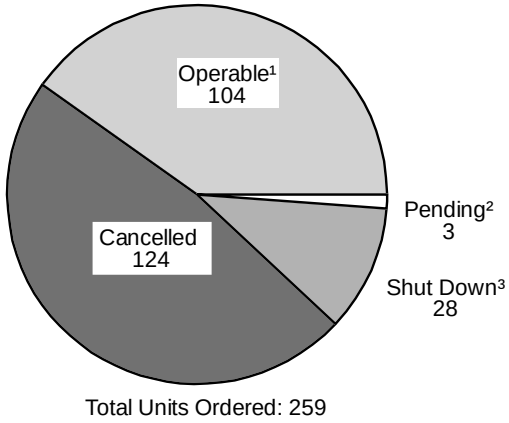
9 Nuclear Energy

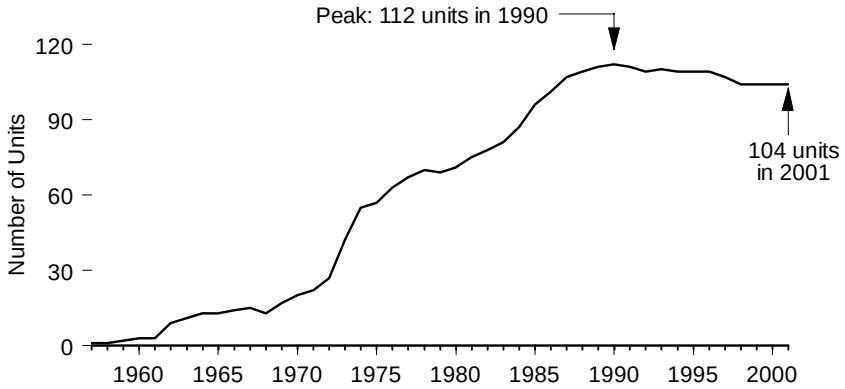
Site of Shippingport atomic power station, the first commercial nuclear power plant in the United States (rectangular reactor building and foreground); background, Beaver Valley 1 and 2 nuclear power plants and Bruce Mansfield coal-fired power plant (southwestern Pennsylvania). Source: U.S. Department of Energy.

Figure 9.1 Nuclear Generating Units

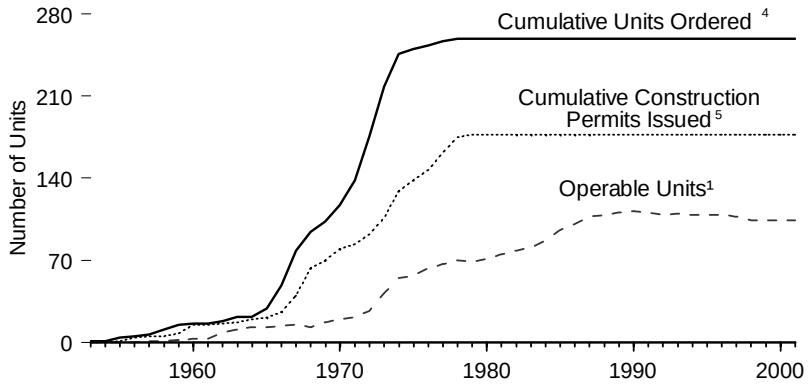
Status of All Ordered Units, 1953-2001



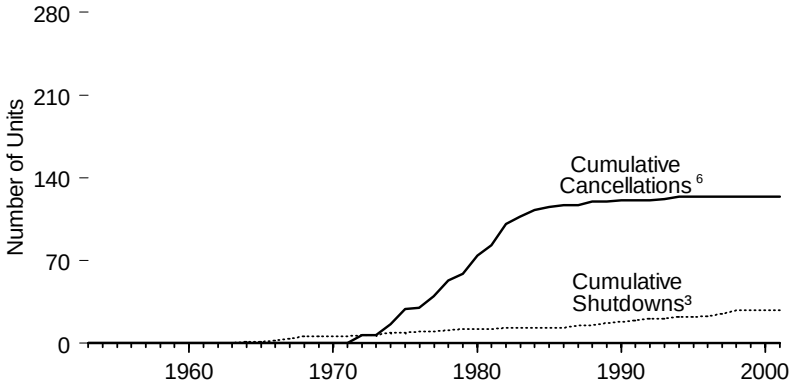
Operable Units,[1] 1957-2001



Orders, Permits, and Operable Units, 1953-2001



Cancellations and Shutdowns, 1953-2001



[1] Issuance by a regulatory authority of full-power operating license, or equivalent permission to operate.

[2] Ordered but not completed or cancelled.

[3] Ceased operation permanently.

[4] Placement of an order by a utility for a nuclear steam supply system.

[5] Issuance by regulatory authority of a permit, or equivalent permission, to begin construction.

[6] Cancellation of ordered units.

Note: Data are at end of year.

Source: Table 9.1.

Table 9.1 Nuclear Generating Units, 1953-2001

Year	Orders [1]	Cancelled Orders [2]	Construction Permits [3]	Low-Power Operating Licenses [4]	Full-Power Operating Licenses [5]	Shutdowns [6]	Operable Units [7]
1953	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1955	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
1956	1	0	3	0	0	0	0
1957	2	0	1	1	1	0	1
1958	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
1959	4	0	3	1	1	0	2
1960	1	0	7	1	1	0	3
1961	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1962	2	0	1	7	6	0	9
1963	4	0	1	3	2	0	11
1964	0	0	3	2	3	1	13
1965	7	0	1	0	0	0	13
1966	20	0	5	1	2	1	14
1967	29	0	14	3	3	2	15
1968	16	0	23	0	0	2	13
1969	9	0	7	4	4	0	17
1970	14	0	10	4	3	0	20
1971	21	0	4	5	2	0	22
1972	38	7	8	6	6	1	27
1973	42	0	14	12	15	0	42
1974	28	9	23	14	15	2	55
1975	4	13	9	3	2	0	57
1976	3	1	9	7	7	1	63
1977	4	10	15	4	4	0	67
1978	2	13	13	3	4	1	70
1979	0	6	2	0	0	1	69
1980	0	15	0	5	2	0	71
1981	0	9	0	3	4	0	75
1982	0	18	0	6	4	1	78
1983	0	6	0	3	3	0	81
1984	0	6	0	7	6	0	87
1985	0	2	0	7	9	0	96
1986	0	2	0	7	5	0	[8]101
1987	0	0	0	6	8	2	[8]107
1988	0	3	0	1	2	0	[8]109
1989	0	0	0	3	4	2	[8]111
1990	0	1	0	1	2	1	[8]112
1991	0	0	0	0	0	1	[8]111
1992	0	0	0	0	0	2	[8]109
1993	0	0	0	1	1	0	[8]110
1994	0	1	0	0	0	1	[8]109
1995	0	2	0	1	0	0	[8]109
1996	0	0	0	0	1	1	[8]109
1997	0	0	0	0	0	2	[8]107
1998	0	0	0	0	0	3	[8]104
1999	0	0	0	0	0	0	[8]104
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	[8]104
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	[8]104
Total	259	124	177	132	132	28	—

[1] Placement of an order by a utility or government agency for a nuclear steam supply system.
[2] Cancellation by utilities of ordered units. Does not include three units (Bellefonte 1 and 2 and Watts Bar 2) where construction has been stopped indefinitely.
[3] Issuance by regulatory authority of a permit, or equivalent permission, to begin construction. Numbers reflect permits issued in a given year, not extant permits.
[4] Issuance by regulatory authority of license, or equivalent permission, to conduct testing but not to operate at full power.
[5] Issuance by regulatory authority of full-power operating license, or equivalent permission. Units generally did not begin immediate operation. See Note 1 at end of section.
[6] Ceased operation permanently.
[7] Total of units holding full-power licenses, or equivalent permission to operate, at the end of the year. See Note 1 at end of section.
[8] Includes Browns Ferry 1, which was shut down in 1985. The unit is defueled but is still fully licensed. In May 2002, the Tennessee Valley Authority announced its intention to have the unit resume operation in 2007. See Note 1 at end of section.

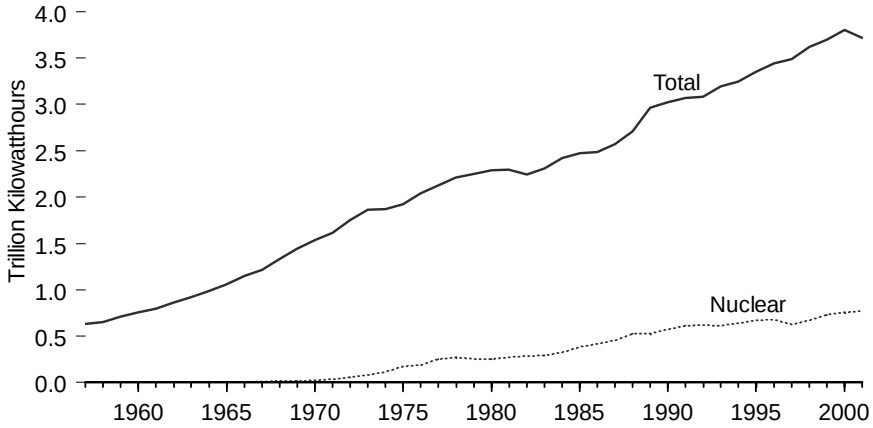
— = Not applicable.

Web Page: http://www.eia.doe.gov/fuelnuclear.html.

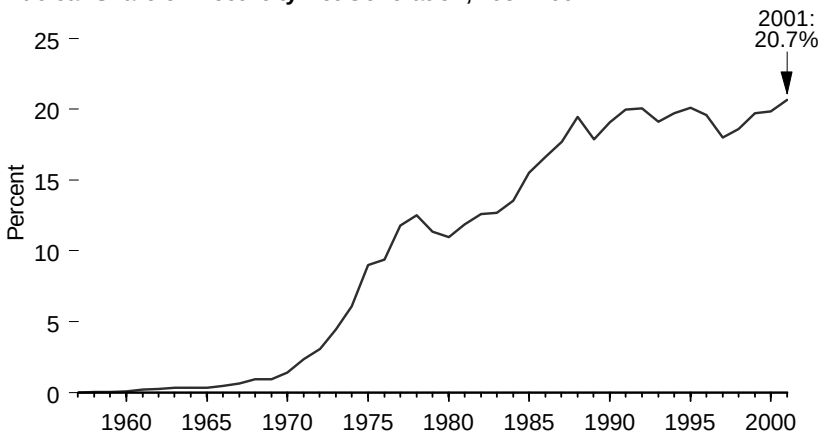
Sources: • 1953-1997: **Orders:** Energy Information Administration, *Commercial Nuclear Power 1991,* Appendix E, September 1991; Nuclear Energy Institute, *Historical Profile of U.S. Nuclear Power Development,* 1988 edition; U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, *1973 Annual Report to Congress, Volume 2, Regulatory Activities;* various utilities. **Cancelled Orders:** Energy Information Administration, *Commercial Nuclear Power 1991,* Appendix E, September 1991; Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *Information Digest,* 1997 editon, Appendix C; and Nuclear Energy Institute, *Historical Profile of U.S. Nuclear Power Development,* 1988 edition. **Construction Permits:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *Information Digest,* 1997 edition, Appendix A; Nuclear Energy Institute, *Historical Profile of U.S. Nuclear Power Development,* 1988 edition; various utility, Federal, and contractor officials. **Low-Power Operating Licenses:** Nuclear Energy Institute, *Historical Profile of U.S. Nuclear Power Development,* 1988 edition; U.S. Department of Energy, *Nuclear Reactors Built, Being Built, and Planned: 1995;* various utility, Federal, and contractor officials. **Full-Power Operating Licenses:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *Information Digest,* 1997 edition, Table 11 and Appendices A and B; various utility, Federal, and contractor officials. **Shutdowns:** Energy Information Administration, *Commercial Nuclear Power 1991,* Appendix E; Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *Information Digest,* 1998 edition; U.S. Department of Energy, *Nuclear Reactors Built, Being Built, and Planned: 1995;* Tennessee Valley Authority officials; Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Plant Status Report." **Operable Units:** Commercial reactors fully licensed to operate, excluding permanent shutdowns. • 1998 forward—http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/reactors.html.

Figure 9.2 Nuclear Power Plant Operations

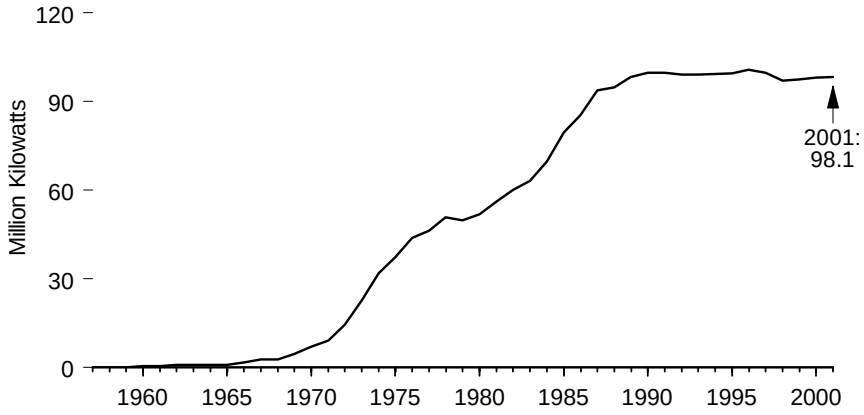
Total Electricity and Nuclear Electricity Net Generation, 1957-2001



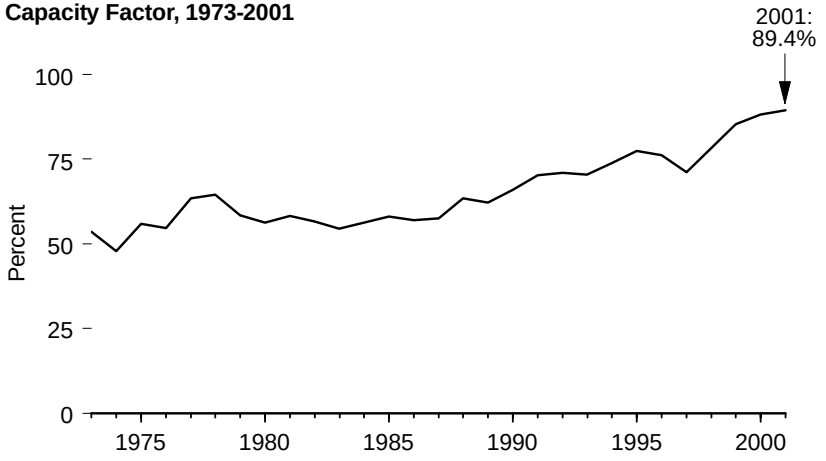
Nuclear Share of Electricity Net Generation, 1957-2001



Net Summer Capacity of Operable Units, 1957-2001



Capacity Factor, 1973-2001



Sources: Tables 8.1 and 9.2.

Table 9.2 Nuclear Power Plant Operations, 1957-2001

Year	Nuclear Electricity Net Generation	Nuclear Share of Electricity Net Generation	Net Summer Capacity of Operable Units [1,2]	Capacity Factor [2]
	Billion Kilowatthours	Percent	Million Kilowatts	Percent
1957	(s)	(s)	0.1	NA
1958	0.2	(s)	0.1	NA
1959	0.2	(s)	0.1	NA
1960	0.5	0.1	0.4	NA
1961	1.7	0.2	0.4	NA
1962	2.3	0.3	0.7	NA
1963	3.2	R0.3	0.8	NA
1964	3.3	0.3	0.8	NA
1965	3.7	0.3	0.8	NA
1966	5.5	0.5	1.7	NA
1967	7.7	0.6	2.7	NA
1968	12.5	0.9	2.7	NA
1969	13.9	1.0	4.4	NA
1970	21.8	1.4	7.0	NA
1971	38.1	2.4	9.0	NA
1972	54.1	3.1	14.5	NA
1973	83.5	4.5	22.7	53.5
1974	114.0	6.1	31.9	47.8
1975	172.5	9.0	37.3	55.9
1976	191.1	9.4	43.8	54.7
1977	250.9	11.8	46.3	63.3
1978	276.4	12.5	50.8	64.5
1979	255.2	R11.3	49.7	58.4
1980	251.1	11.0	51.8	56.3
1981	272.7	11.9	56.0	58.2
1982	282.8	12.6	60.0	56.6
1983	293.7	12.7	63.0	54.4
1984	327.6	R13.5	69.7	56.3
1985	383.7	15.5	79.4	58.0
1986	414.0	16.6	85.2	56.9
1987	455.3	17.7	93.6	57.4
1988	527.0	19.5	94.7	63.5
1989P	529.4	R17.9	98.2	62.2
1990P	R576.9	19.1	99.6	66.0
1991P	612.6	19.9	99.6	70.2
1992P	618.8	20.1	99.0	70.9
1993P	R610.3	19.1	R99.0	70.5
1994P	R640.4	19.7	99.1	73.8
1995P	673.4	20.1	99.5	77.4
1996P	674.7	19.6	100.8	76.2
1997P	628.6	18.0	99.7	71.1
1998P	673.7	18.6	97.1	78.2
1999P,3	728.3	19.7	R97.4	85.3
2000P	753.9	R19.8	R97.9	88.1
2001P	768.8	20.7	98.1	89.4

[1] At end of year.
[2] See Note 2 at end of section.
[3] Through 1998, data include nuclear generating units at electric utilities only. Beginning in 1999, data also include nuclear generating units at independent power producers.

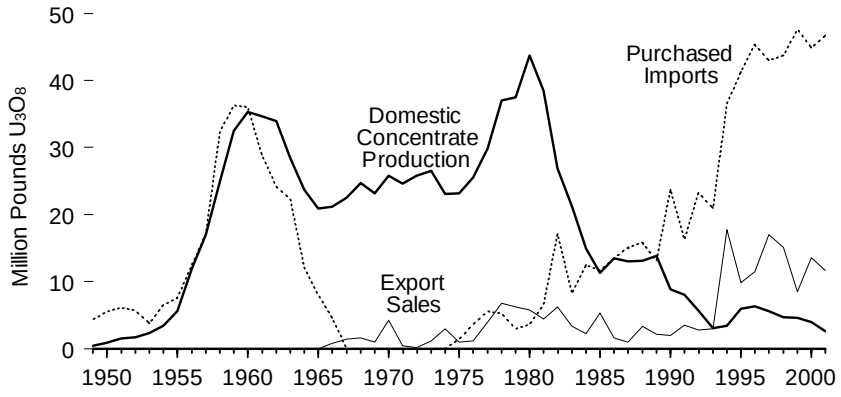
R=Revised. P=Preliminary. NA=Not available. (s)=Less than 0.05.

Note: The performance data shown in this table are based on a universe of reactor units that differs in some respects from the reactor universe used to profile the nuclear power industry in Table 9.1, especially in the years prior to 1973. See Note 1 at end of section for further discussion.

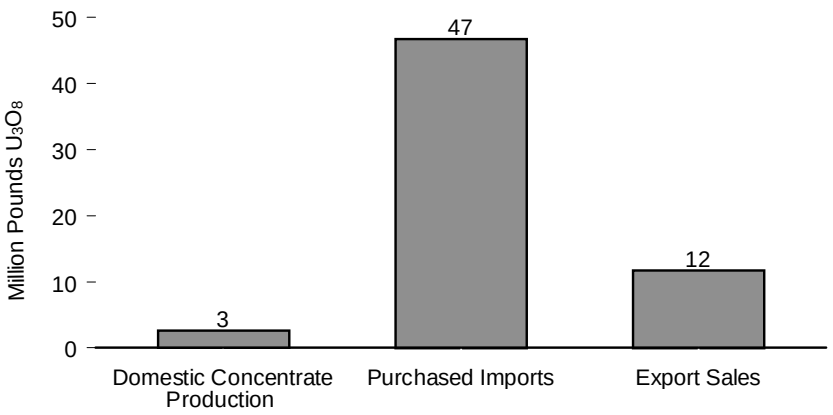
Sources: **Nuclear Electricity Net Generation** and **Nuclear Share of Electricity Net Generation:** Table 8.2a. **Net Summer Capacity of Operable Units:** Table 8.7a. **Capacity Factor:** Computed as a weighted average of monthly values for the year. Monthly factors are computed as the actual monthly generation divided by the maximum possible generation for that month. The maximum possible generation is the number of hours in the month multiplied by the net summer capacity at the end of the month. That fraction is then multiplied by 100 to obtain a percentage.

Figure 9.3 Uranium Overview

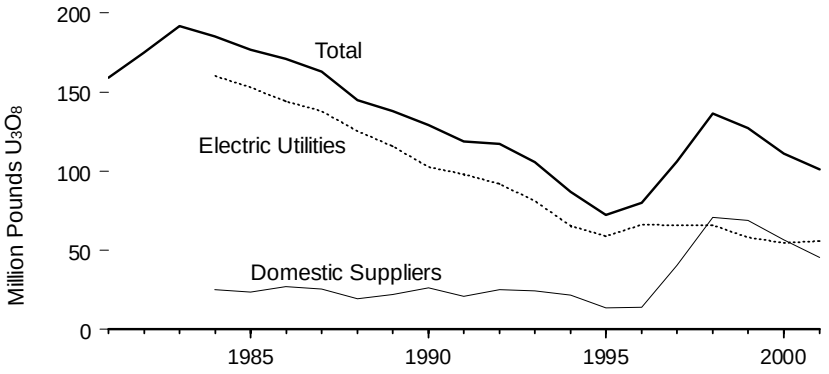
Production and Trade, 1949-2001



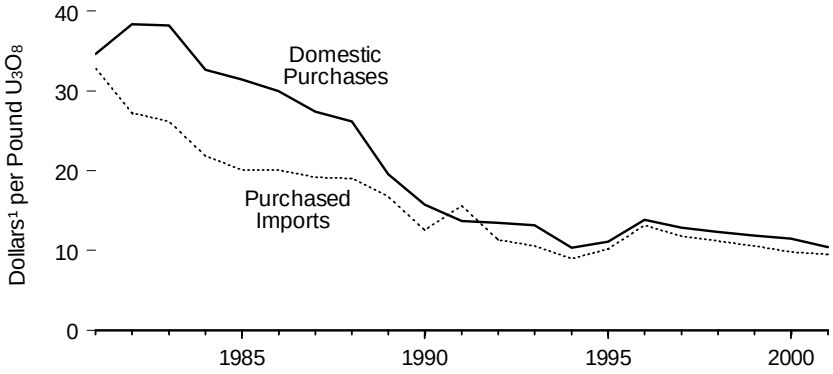
Production and Trade, 2001



Inventories, End of Year 1981-2001



Average Prices, 1981-2001



[1] Nominal dollars.

Note: Because vertical scales differ, graphs should not be compared.

Source: Table 9.3.

Table 9.3 Uranium Overview, 1949-2001

Year	Domestic Concentrate Production	Purchased Imports [1]	Export [1] Sales	Utility Purchases From Domestic Suppliers	Loaded Into U.S. Nuclear Reactors [2]	Inventories			Average Price	
						Domestic Suppliers	Electric Utilities	Total	Purchased Imports	Domestic Purchases
	Million Pounds U_3O_8								U.S. Dollars[3] per Pound U_3O_8	
1949	0.36	4.3	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1950	0.92	5.5	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1951	1.54	6.1	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1952	1.74	5.7	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1953	2.32	3.8	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1954	3.40	6.5	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1955	5.56	7.6	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1956	11.92	12.5	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1957	16.96	17.1	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1958	24.88	32.3	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1959	32.48	36.3	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1960	35.28	36.0	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1961	34.70	29.0	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1962	34.02	24.2	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1963	28.44	22.4	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1964	23.70	12.1	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1965	20.88	8.0	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1966	21.18	4.6	0.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1967	22.51	0.0	1.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—	NA
1968	24.74	0.0	1.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—	NA
1969	23.22	0.0	1.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—	NA
1970	25.81	0.0	4.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—	NA
1971	24.55	0.0	0.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—	NA
1972	25.80	0.0	0.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—	NA
1973	26.47	0.0	1.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—	NA
1974	23.06	0.0	3.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—	NA
1975	23.20	1.4	1.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1976	25.49	3.6	1.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1977	29.88	5.6	4.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1978	36.97	5.2	6.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1979	37.47	3.0	6.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1980	43.70	3.6	5.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1981	38.47	6.6	4.4	32.6	NA	NA	NA	159.2	32.90	34.65
1982	26.87	17.1	6.2	27.1	NA	NA	NA	174.8	27.23	38.37
1983	21.16	8.2	3.3	24.2	NA	NA	NA	191.8	26.16	38.21
1984	14.88	12.5	2.2	22.5	NA	25.0	160.2	185.2	21.86	32.65
1985	11.31	11.7	5.3	21.7	NA	23.7	153.2	176.9	20.08	31.43
1986	13.51	13.5	1.6	18.9	NA	27.0	144.1	171.1	20.07	30.01
1987	12.99	15.1	1.0	20.8	NA	25.4	137.8	163.2	19.14	27.37
1988	13.13	15.8	3.3	17.6	NA	19.3	125.5	144.8	19.03	26.15
1989	13.84	13.1	2.1	18.4	NA	22.2	115.8	138.1	16.75	19.56
1990	8.89	23.7	2.0	20.5	NA	26.4	102.7	129.1	12.55	15.70
1991	7.95	16.3	3.5	26.8	34.6	20.7	98.0	118.7	15.55	13.66
1992	5.65	23.3	2.8	23.4	43.0	25.2	92.1	117.3	11.34	13.45
1993	3.06	21.0	3.0	15.5	45.1	24.5	81.2	105.7	10.53	13.14
1994	3.35	36.6	17.7	22.7	40.4	21.5	65.4	86.9	8.95	10.30
1995	6.04	41.3	9.8	22.3	51.1	13.7	58.7	72.5	10.20	11.11
1996	6.32	45.4	11.5	R 23.7	46.2	13.9	66.1	80.0	13.15	13.81
1997	5.64	43.0	17.0	R 19.4	48.2	40.4	65.9	106.2	11.81	12.87
1998	4.71	43.7	15.1	R 21.6	38.2	70.7	65.8	136.5	11.19	12.31
1999	4.61	47.6	8.5	R 21.4	58.8	68.8	58.3	127.1	10.55	11.88
2000	3.96	44.9	13.6	R 24.3	R 51.5	56.5	R 54.8	R 111.3	9.84	11.45
2001	2.64	46.7	11.7	27.5	P 52.7	P 45.4	P 55.7	P 101.1	9.51	10.45

[1] Import quantities through 1970 are reported for fiscal years. Prior to 1968, the Atomic Energy Commission was the sole purchaser of all imported U_3O_8. Trade data prior to 1982 were for transactions conducted by uranium suppliers only. For 1982 forward, transactions by uranium buyers (consumers) have been included. Buyer imports and exports prior to 1982 are believed to be small.

[2] Does not include any fuel rods removed from reactors and later reloaded.

[3] Nominal dollars.

R=Revised. P=Preliminary. NA=Not available. — = Not applicable.

Web Page: http://www.eia.doe.gov/fuelnuclear.html.

Sources: • 1949-1966—U.S. Department of Energy, Grand Junction Office, *Statistical Data of the Uranium Industry,* Report No. GJO-100, annual. • 1967 forward—Energy Information Administration, *Uranium Industry Annual,* annual reports.

Nuclear Energy

Note 1. In 1997 EIA undertook a major revision of Table 9.1 to more fully describe the history of the U.S. commercial nuclear power industry. The time frame was extended back to the birth of the industry in 1953, and the data categories were revised for greater relevance to current industry conditions and trends. To acquire the data for the revised categories it was necessary to develop a reactor unit database employing different sources than those used previously for Table 9.1 and still used for Table 9.2.

The data in Table 9.1 apply to commercial nuclear power units, which means that the units contributed power to the commercial electricity grid whether or not they were owned by an electric utility. A total of 259 units ever ordered was identified. Although most orders were placed by electric utilities, several units are or were ordered, owned, and operated wholly or in part by the Federal Government, including BONUS (Boiling Nuclear Superheater Power Station), Elk River, Experimental Breeder Reactor 2, Hallam, Hanford N, Piqua, and Shippingport.

A reactor is generally defined as operable in Table 9.1 while it possessed a full-power license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or its predecessor the Atomic Energy Commission, or equivalent permission to operate, at the end of the year. The definition is liberal in that it does not exclude units retaining full-power licenses during long, non-routine shutdowns. For example:

> In 1985 the five then-active Tennessee Valley Authority units (Browns Ferry 1, 2, and 3 and Sequoyah 1 and 2) were shut down under a regulatory forced outage. Browns Ferry 1 remains shut down and has been defueled, while the other units were idle for several years, restarting in 1991, 1995, 1988, and 1988, respectively. All five units are counted as operable during the shutdowns. Brown's Ferry 1 is the only one of the five TVA plants that has not returned to service. Because it is still fully licensed to operate, it continues to meet the definition of operable.
>
> Shippingport was shut down from 1974 through 1976 for conversion to a light-water breeder reactor, but is counted as operable until its retirement in 1982.
>
> Calvert Cliffs 2 was shut down in 1989 and 1990 for replacement of pressurizer heater sleeves but is counted as operable during those years.

Exceptions to the rule are Shoreham and Three Mile Island 2. Shoreham was granted a full-power license in April 1989, but was shut down two months later and never restarted. In 1991, the license was changed to Possession Only. Although not operable at the end of the year, Shoreham is treated as operable during 1989 and shut down in 1990, because counting it as operable and shut down in the same year would introduce a statistical discrepancy in the tallies. A major accident closed Three Mile Island 2 in 1979, and although the unit retained its full-power license for several years, it is considered permanently shut down since that year.

Note 2. Net summer capacities were first collected on Form EIA-860 for 1984. Units not assigned a net summer capacity rating by the utility were given an estimated rating by use of a statistical relationship between installed nameplate capacity and net summer capacity for each prime mover. To estimate net summer capacity for 1949-1984, two methods were used. For each prime mover except nuclear and "other," net summer capacity estimates were calculated in two steps. First, the unit capacity values reported on Form EIA-860 and the unit start dates contained in the 1984 Generating Unit Reference File (GURF) were used to compute preliminary aggregate estimates of annual net summer capacity and installed nameplate capacity. These preliminary estimates were obtained by aggregating unit capacity values for all units in service during a given year. Next, the ratio of the preliminary capacity to nameplate estimate was computed for each year and multiplied by the previously published installed nameplate capacity values to produce the final estimates of net summer capacity. The net summer capacity data for nuclear and "other" units were used directly from the 1984 GURF for all years. Historical aggregates were then developed by use of the unit start dates on the GURF.

Historical capacity has also been modified to estimate capacity based upon the operable definition, by assuming that non-nuclear generating units became operable between 1 and 4 months prior to their commercial operation dates, depending upon the prime mover and time period. The actual operable dates for nuclear units were used. It should be noted that nonutility net summer capacities, which are not currently collected for nonutilities, are estimated based on installed nameplate capacity data.